

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 SPC-03 AID-20 NSC-10

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 FRB-02

XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06 SIL-01 INT-08 SCEM-02 PA-04

PRS-01 USIA-15 L-03 H-03 DRC-01 /183 W

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R 111559Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9527

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1. IN ITS NOON EDITION OF JAN 10 MEXICO CITY DAILY EXCELSIOR CARRIED BANNER HEADLINE STATING "U.S. VIOLATES AIR PACT." ACCOMPANYING ARTICLE QUOTES AEROMEXICO MANAGER CANO AS STATING THAT U.S. IS VIOLATING AGREEMENT EMBODIED IN AIR TRANSPORT BILATERAL TO SUPPLY MEXICAN AIRLINES WITH SUFFICIENT FUEL FOR THEIR FLIGHTS FROM THE U.S. TO MEXICO. AS AN EXAMPLE, CANO SAID, AEROMEXICO FLIGHTS AT MIAMI REQUIRE 538,000 LITERS (SIC) OF GASOLINE MONTHLY WHEREAS U.S. HAS OFFERED ONLY 125,000 LITERS. A SIMILAR SITUATION PREVAILS THROUGHOUT THE U.S., HE CONTINUED, AND AT POINTS SUCH AS NEW YORK JET FUEL PRICES ARE BEING RAISED DAILY BECAUSE THERE IS NO GOVERNMENT CONTROL OVER THIS ITEM. IN NOVEMBER, HE SAID, THE PRICE IN NEW YORK WAS THE EQUIVALENT OF 41 MEXICAN CENTAVOS PER LITER AND HAS NOW GONE UP TO 1.78 PESOS PER LITER.

2. IN SAME ARTICLE PILOTS UNION HEAD VICTORIA GALBAN ADDS THAT AS A RESULT MEXICAN AIRLINES ARE LOSING A LARGE NUMBER OF TOURIST PASSENGERS BECAUSE THEY MUST CARRY MORE FUEL THAN WOULD NORMALLY BE NECESSARY. HE FURTHER CHARGED THAT MEXICAN AIRLINES ARE REQUIRED TO MAKE UNSCHEDULED REFUELING STOPS AT MEXICAN BORDER LOCATIONS AND TO CUT FLIGHTS TO U.S. POINTS WHERE FUEL SUPPLY

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UNCERTAIN. U.S. CARRIERS, HE SAID, CONTINUE TO RECEIVE ALL THE

FUEL THEY NEED IN MEXICO. HE STATED THAT THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT IS BEING ASKED TO MAKE FORMAL REPRESENTATIONS TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO ASSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE BILATERAL CONVENTION.

3. OTHER MEXICAN DAILIES JAN 10 GIVE SIMILAR ACCOUNTS OF VICTORIA GALBAN'S STATEMENTS BUT DO NOT QUOTE CANO. AN ARTICLE IN NOVEDADES FEATURES COMMENT BY SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS MENDEZ DOCURRO TO THE EFFECT THAT SOME MEXICAN AIRLINES HAVE SUFFERED DELAYS BECAUSE OF FUEL PROBLEMS IN THE U.S. BUT THAT MEXICAN AUTHORITIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BILATERAL CONVENTION ARE SEEKING A SOLUTION THAT WILL INSURE THAT SUCH DELAYS ARE NOT REPEATED. MENDEZ DOCURRO ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID THAT U.S. AIRLINES IN MEXICO ARE BEING ALLOWED TO PURCHASE ONLY THAT QUANTITY OF FUEL NEEDED FOR THEIR OPERATIONS AND THAT CARE IS BEING TAKEN THAT THEY DO NOT ABUSE THIS PRIVILEGE.

4. MEXICAN CIVIL AIR DIRECTOR RODRIGUEZ TORRES CALLED EMBASSY TCO ON JAN 10 TO REFRESH HIS MEMORY OF INFORMATION PREVIOUSLY PASSED ON TO HIM AS PER STATE 248152. ALTHOUGH CALL OBVIOUSLY OCCASIONED BY THE DAY'S SPATE OF PRESS ARTICLES, RODRIGUEZ TENDED TO BRUSH THEM ASIDE AND REFUSED TO COMMENT ON THEIR ACCURACY.

5. COMMENT: IN RECENT CONVERSATION WITH EMBASSY TCO, CANO STATED THAT CHEVRON, AEROMEXICO'S U.S. SUPPLIER, HAD OFFERED FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 319,000 GALLONS AT NEW YORK VS. 558,000 GALLON REQUIREMENT. AT MIAMI, THE OFFER WAS 151,200 GALLONS VS. 583,000 GALLON REQUIREMENT. CANO WAS AWARE THAT THESE OFFERS WERE BASED ON CHEVRON'S SUPPLIES ON HAND AT END OF DECEMBER AND DID NOT TAKE ACCOUNT OF EXPECTED ALLOCATIONS OF MILITARY JET FUEL. HE FEARED, HOWEVER, THAT LOGISTIC DELAY IN DISTRIBUTING MILITARY FUEL COULD FORCE INTERRUPTION OF AEROMEXICO SERVICE AT THESE TWO POINTS AND OTHERS WITHIN THE NEXT WEEK OR TWO. CANO WAS ALSO AWARE OF RECENT ANNOUNCEMENTS BY FEO ADMINISTRATOR AND FACT THAT U.S. AGENCIES CONCERNED WERE GIVING SPECIAL ATTENTION TO AEROMEXICO PROBLEM. HE DID NOT MENTION ALLEGED VIOLATION UNDER THE BILATERAL.
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Message Attributes

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